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MISSING AMERICANS MAY GO ON 'TRIAL'

Caller in Lebanon Accuses 5
of Being Spies for C.I.A. —
2 French Soldiers Slain

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Special to The New York Times

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Jan. 14 — An anonymous caller claiming to represent the group Islamic Holy War said tonight that five Americans kidnapped here in separate incidents over the last year would be put on trial as spies.

The caller also took responsibility for the deaths of two French peacekeeping observers who were killed with machine-gun fire this morning when their jeep was ambushed in the mostly Shiite Moslem shantytown suburb of Burj al Brajneh near the airport.

Last week, the deputy commander of the French troops, Lieut. Col. Claude Cuenot, was found dead with a single bullet in his head in a desolate, bombed-out area of the city. His briefcase, believed to have contained French and Lebanese currency, was missing.

The French soldiers were part of a 68-member volunteer contingent here to help enforce a shaky truce between feuding militias. Under the truce, crossing points were opened along the Green Line that divides the Christian and Moslem sectors of this capital last July.

Tension in City Increases

The shooting came on a day of increasing tension here after a week of bombings and kidnappings. The downtown streets emptied before noon, and at nightfall unusually heavy shelling broke out between the Christian suburbs in the east and Druse positions in the mountains.

The anonymous caller to two Western news agencies here said that in addition to having killed the French soldiers, the terrorist organization would try the five missing Americans as "agents in the C.I.A."

Last week, a caller claiming to speak for Islamic Holy War said for the first

time that it was holding the five and would release them when all Americans had left Lebanon.

That caller said the latest American kidnapping victim, a 50-year-old Roman Catholic priest, the Rev. Lawrence M. Jenco, had been taken after what it called an indifferent response to the group's ultimatum that "no Americans would remain on the soil of Lebanon."

The Group's Charges

A State Department spokesman, Alan Romberg, said in Washington in reply that the United States intended to keep Americans in Lebanon. The once-large American group here, which has tried to help the Christian-dominated Government of President Amin Gemayel, has been sharply cut back in the face of reverses, including two large suicide truck-bomb attacks on American Embassy buildings and the simi-

lar attack on the United States Marine headquarters.

"We wish to inform Alan Romberg," the caller tonight said, that the five Americans "are now in our custody, preliminary to trying them as spies."

"These people are using journalism, education and religion as a cover and are in fact agents in the C.I.A.," the caller continued. "They have exploited the hospitality accorded to them by Islamic areas to persist in their subversive activities and will get the punishment they deserve."

In addition to Father Jenco, the kidnapped Americans are Jeremy Levin, the chief of the Cable News Network bureau, William Buckley, political officer at the American Embassy, the Rev. Benjamin Wier, a Presbyterian minister, and Peter Kilburn, a librarian at the American University of Beirut.

The caller said of the French soldiers, "The two French spies were liquidated this morning after they were caught red-handed spying on our youths and positions in the Islamic suburb as part of their mission to monitor the movements of our youths and report to the Atlantic, Israeli and American intelligence."

[The French Ministry of Defense identified the soldiers as Warrant Officers Patrice Grécourt and Henri Perrot, The Associated Press reported.]

White Helmets and Jeeps

The French soldiers, most of whom appear by their insignia to be officers of elite units, wear distinctive white-painted helmets with their khaki uniforms and drive all-white jeeps. They are armed only with pistols.

They are stationed primarily at the Museum crossing on the Green Line. Some are also in the Shuf Mountains east of the capital where Druse and Lebanese Army gunners shell each other nightly, and at other points on the Green Line.

It was not immediately clear what the two French soldiers were doing in the Burj al Brajneh area, which is not on the Green Line. It is near the airport, but the main roads do not run through the district.

The caller tonight gave the usual salutation from the Koran, "In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate," then, apparently referring to the French soldiers, the American hostages or both, said, "Hell is the abode of these people, and they will find no alternative for it."